

Fifth Sunday of Easter

28 April 2024

HIGHWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH
419 Northmount Drive NW
Calgary, Alberta T2K 3H7
Telephone: 403-289-8206

Pastor: Rev. Michael Wellman **Email:** pastorhlc@outlook.com

Office Email: secretaryhlc@outlook.com

Website: www.highwoodlutheran.com

Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4111340591> PW: highwood

Zoom by Telephone Dial 1-587-328-1099

Meeting ID: 411 134 0591 # Passcode: 592794 #

Organist's Blog: <https://highwoodorganist.wordpress.com>

Organist: Rick VanderWoude Secretary: Liz Northam

~~~~~

### + SERVICE OF THE WORD +

*It is appropriate to stand during prayer and when receiving the Eucharist during the Easter Season. The Easter emphasis is on justification: "Because of what God has done in Christ through the cross and resurrection, I am justified and can stand before him."*

#### ORGAN PRELUDE

#### GATHERING

Pg. 211

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS Please stand as you are able.*

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

L Gracious God, ...

Pg. 212

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.*

L God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** Blest Be the Tie That Binds

**No. 656**

**GREETING**

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

Pg. 213

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

Pg. 213

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pg. 215

L We pray. O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**First Lesson**

**Acts 8:26-40**

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they

came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** *Spoken Antiphonally* **Psalm 22:25-31**

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**For dominion belongs to the Lord,**

**who rules over the nations.**

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.

**Their descendants shall serve the Lord,**

**whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, “The| Lord has acted!”

Glory be to the Father, and | to the Son, and to the | Holy Spirit; as it was in the begin-| ning, is now and will be forever. | Amen.

**SECOND LESSON** **1 John 4:7-21**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to

love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Alleluia

Pg. 216

*Please stand as you are able.*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL** **John 15:1-8**

[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

L The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY** Where Charity and Love Prevail **No. 359**

**NICENE CREED** Inside Front Cover

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *Please stand as you are able.*

A Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence*

A For ministries that nurture faith formation. For missionaries and Bible study leaders. For those who are seeking, questioning, or curious. For seminarians, campus ministers, and the newly baptized, we pray.

**C Have mercy, O God.**

A For the beauty and health of the earth. For vineyards and orchards, groves and plains. For rain forests and arctic tundra. For volcanoes and mountains, hills and valleys. For oceans deep and rivers wide, we pray.

**C Have mercy, O God.**

A For homeless youth and rejected children. For isolated grandparents and lonely nursing home residents. For the shamed, the slighted, and the disregarded members of our communities, we pray.

**C Have mercy, O God.**

A For all who live with post-traumatic stress disorder and postpartum depression. For all who struggle with eating disorders and anorexia., For all who suffer in silence and all who suffer alone, and who are ill or hospitalized. Especially Bruce Beamer, Anna Berwanger, Simret Bogale, June Chadwich, Chrystine Cuch, Mariette Erasmus, Adeline Erick, Norma Gummo, Dolores Hollowell, Donna Harbor, Eleanora Lahoda, Fay Larsen, Jean McCowan, Mark Mutschlechner, Bruce and Judith Nagel, Ruby Panser, Joyce Rasmussen, David Sr. and Joan Richardson, Laurena Schnell, Vern Schnell, Rose Sinclair, Sam Skogen, , those we name aloud ... and those we carry in our hearts. For all these, we pray.

**C Have mercy, O God.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered)*

- A For those who serve in the holy catholic Church:
- for the BC Synod, staff, pastors, people, and Bishop Kathy Martin
  - for the Southern Area Leadership Team, pastors, people and Rev. Dr. Tim Wray, Dean,
  - for our Synod Campus Ministries and especially for Rev. Margaret Propp, Chaplain for the University of Calgary, and Mount Royal University
  - for St. Paul's Lutheran Ellerslie, Edmonton
  - for Our Savior Congregation, El Cocuy, Colombia
  - for the bishops, priests, and people of the Orthodox Churches of Canada
  - for the Anglican, Mennonite, and Moravian Churches

For all these, we pray.

**C Have mercy, O God.**

A We pray for the family and friends of Katherine Wellman, mother of Rev. Michael Wellman. May God's merciful grace and the heavenly welcome of the Saints provide continued consolation as they grieve her death, we pray.

**C Have mercy, O God.**

A For all virtually gathered for this service, and those attending to the care of others and to beneficial endeavours that keep them away from worshipping, we pray.

**C Have mercy, O God.**

A For spears to be beat into pruning hooks. For harsh words to be reformed into loving speech. For peace among nations and forbearance among all people. For Ukraine and all areas experiencing the terror of war. Let the bloodshed come to an end. For wisdom, peace, and justice to prevail, we pray.

**C Have mercy, O God.**

L We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

**THE PEACE**

Pg. 218

L May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

**C And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

*The congregation remains seated as the offering is collected*

CHORAL OFFERTORY "This is the Day" arr. Natalie Sleeth

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING *SUNG* Pg. 219

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Version I) Pg. 221

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING Pg. 221

SENDING HYMN Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds **No. 367**

DISMISSAL Pg. 115

**C Thanks be to God!**

ORGAN POSTLUDE

~~~~~  
WELCOME to all gathered here today, especially all guests and visitors. We are blessed to have you worship with us. You are invited to sign our guest book in the Narthex (lobby). Join us for refreshments and conversation downstairs after worship, Questions? Ask one of today's servants or speak with the pastor. We continue to provide online worship for those unable to attend in-person.

SPECIAL THANKS to Cam Schneider for leading us in our service today, and Chris Poromon for sharing his musical talents with us.

WE THANK TODAY'S SERVANTS

Ushers: Darcy Anderson
Lector: Helga Weissenberger
Assistant Minister: Art Wildeman
Altar Guild: Volunteer
Refreshments: Diane and Darcy Anderson
Zoom Host: Phil Tang, Ahmed Conteh

OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE

Last week	21 April	Budget 2024
Current	\$ 1,260	\$2,911
Benevolence	\$ 100	
Building Fund	\$ 0	
Other	\$ 245	
Attendance	35	

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Today	28 Apr	11:45 PM	Fellowship and Refreshments
		2:00 PM	CFMA Worship
Monday	29 Apr	7:00 PM	12 Step Program
Tuesday	30 Apr	6:30 PM	Never Alone Peer Support
Wednesday	01 May	9:30 AM	12 Step Program
Thursday	02 May	11:30 AM	Funeral of Katherine Wellman
		1:00 PM	K.S.G.
Friday	03 May	7:00 PM	12 Step Program
Saturday	04 May	9:00 AM	House of Hope Worship
		10:00 AM	Men's Breakfast
		1:00 PM	K.S.G.
		8:00 PM	12 Step Program
Sunday	05 May	9:30 AM	Choir practice
		10:30 AM	Sixth Sunday of Easter
			Baptism Sunday

NEWSLETTER – The May issue of the Highwood Highlights is available in the narthex.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY - We offer our heartfelt condolences to Pastor Mike and his family on the passing of his mother, Katherine Wellman on 23 April 2024. The funeral service is Thursday, 2 May at 11:30 AM at Highwood with reception to follow.

MEN'S BREAKFAST Join us on Saturday 4 May at 10:00 AM at Ace Casino Airport. Bring a friend and enjoy the fellowship. Sign-up sheet downstairs.

HLW BIBLE STUDY - All ladies are invited to join our bible study on Tuesday 7 May at 1:00 PM downstairs. Rides can be arranged with Pat, Clarice, or Helga. Friends are welcome too.

FESTIVAL CHORUS PRESENTS "Faure Requiem" on Saturday 11 May 2024 at 8:00 PM. Purchase tickets [FAURÉ REQUIEM - Knox United Church - Calgary - May 11, 2024 · Showpass](#) See poster downstairs for more details.

BADLANDS PASSION PLAY 5-21 July 2024. Plan ahead and purchase discounted tickets now. See bulletin board downstairs.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Acts 10:44-48

Psalms 98

Sixth Sunday of Easter

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17